



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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May 10, 2016

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

35 May 10, 2016

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40,
ANTELOPE VALLEY, APPOINTMENT TO THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
GROUNDWATER BASIN WATERMASTER BOARD
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to appoint the Director of Public Works or her designee as a representative for the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, on the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board for a period of 2 years and to delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or her designee to nominate and vote for the Public Water Suppliers' representative on the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 40:

1. Find that the action set forth in this Board letter is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Appoint the Director of Public Works or her designee as the representative for Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, on the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board for a period of 2 years.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or her designee to vote on behalf of the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, for a representative of the Public Water Suppliers on the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On December 23, 2015, a final judgment was entered in the Antelope Valley Groundwater Adjudication Santa Clara Case No. 1-05-CV-04053, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4408. As a part of that judgment, the court ordered the formation of a five-member board to be known as the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board (Watermaster) to implement and enforce the judgment as an arm of the court. The court ordered that there be two permanent members of the Watermaster: the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley (Waterworks District 40) and the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK). Another seat is to represent the Public Water Suppliers. The two remaining Watermaster seats are to be filled by landowners with allocated rights to pump groundwater. The judgment also provides that Waterworks District 40 has 1 vote out of a total of 11 votes for the Public Water Suppliers' seat.

The purpose of this letter is to recommend that the Director of Public Works or her designee represent Waterworks District 40 on the Watermaster. Upon expiration of this term, Public Works will present a recommendation to the Board to appoint a successor representative to the Watermaster.

It is further recommended that the Board delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or her designee to nominate and vote on behalf of Waterworks District 40 for the representative of the Public Water Suppliers on the Watermaster. The current Public Water Suppliers appointee is Mr. Leo Thibault, who has already received a majority of votes from the other ten representatives of the Public Water Suppliers whose governing bodies have approved his appointment.

Mr. Thibault is the President of the Little Rock Creek Irrigation District and has been a member of the Little Rock Creek Irrigation District Board of Directors since November 2002. He is also a Commissioner and the Treasurer-Auditor of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association. Mr. Thibault is knowledgeable and has many years of extensive experience in the water supply field.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provisions of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) and Integrated Services Delivery (Goal 3) by promoting sound, prudent, transparent fiscal policies, and practices that help ensure maintenance of critical, high-priority County public services to protect and preserve our precious water resources while preserving the quality of life for County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

The Watermaster will assess each groundwater rights' holder an annual administrative fee, currently at \$5 per acre-foot. The assessment for Waterworks District 40 will be minimal and paid from the Waterworks District 40 General Fund budget beginning in Fiscal Year 2015-16. Funding for future fiscal year's budgets will be made available through the annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 18.1.1 of the judgment provides that "the Watermaster shall be a five-member board composed of one representative each from AVEK and Waterworks District 40, a second Public Water Supplier representative selected by Waterworks District 40, Palmdale Water District, Quartz Hill Water District, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, California Water Service Company, Desert Lake

Community Services District, North Edwards Water District, City of Palmdale, City of Lancaster, Palm Ranch Irrigation District, and Rosamond Community Services District; and two landowner parties, exclusive of public agencies and members of the Non-Pumper and Small Pumper Classes, selected by majority vote of the landowners identified on Exhibit 4 (or their successors in interest) based on their proportionate share of the total Production Rights identified in Exhibit 4."

The Board, as the governing body of Waterworks District 40, has the authority and obligation pursuant to the judgment to appoint a representative to the Watermaster on behalf of Waterworks District 40, and also has the authority to nominate and vote for a "second Public Water Supplier representative" on the Watermaster.

This Board letter has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed actions do not constitute a project and are exempt from review under the State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Sections 15378(b)(5) and 15061(b)(3).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This action will have no negative impact on current County services.

CONCLUSION

Please return an adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division.

Respectfully submitted,



GAIL FARBER

Director

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c: Chief Executive Office (Rochelle Goff)
County Counsel
Executive Office